

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A puzzle storage device comprising:  
5           a puzzle assembly mat; and  
          an inflatable tube around which the puzzle assembly mat may be rolled.
2. The puzzle storage device of claim 1, wherein the inflatable tube is attached to an  
10       end of the puzzle assembly mat.
3. The puzzle storage device of claim 1, wherein the inflatable tube further  
      comprises multiple inflation chambers.
4. The puzzle storage device of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism to secure  
15       the puzzle assembly mat around the inflatable tube.
5. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism is attached  
      to the puzzle storage device.
- 20       6. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism comprises  
          straps.
7. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism comprises  
      hook-and-loop fasteners.  
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8. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism comprises  
      a bag.
9. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism comprises  
30       snaps.
10. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism comprises  
      a zipper.

11. The puzzle storage device of claim 4, wherein the securing mechanism comprises elastic loops.

5 12. The puzzle storage device of claim 1, wherein the puzzle assembly mat comprises a rough surface.

13. The puzzle storage device of claim 12, wherein the puzzle assembly mat comprises a plastic or vinyl sheet and the rough surface comprises a flocked surface.

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14. A method for storing a puzzle comprising:

placing puzzle pieces on a puzzle assembly mat individually or attached to other pieces; and

rolling the puzzle assembly mat around an inflated tube such that the puzzle pieces remain in place relative to each other.

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15. The puzzle storage method of claim 14, further comprising securing the rolled puzzle assembly mat to the inflated tube.